- 7. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 in which the optical switching means can also be arranged to provide selected coupling ratios between the input-output means and the light source and the light receiver.
- 8. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 in which the light source comprises a light emitter.
- 10. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 in which the light source comprises a reflector arranged to reflect light received from a remote light source via the input-output means.
- 12. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 in which the light receiver comprises a photodiode.
- 13. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 in which the inputoutput means comprises a fibre connector for receiving an optical fibre providing the bidirectional optical transmission path.

- 14. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 13 in which the fibre connector is optically connected to a single port of the Mach-Zehnder interferometer.
- 16. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 13 in which the fibre connector is optically connected to two ports of the Mach-Zehnder interferometer via a Y junction.
- 17. (Amended) An optical transceiver as claimed in claim 13 in which two ports of the Mach-Zehnder interferometer are each connected to a fibre connector each for connecting, respectively, to first and second optical fibres, each fibre providing the bidirectional optical transmission means.
- 19. (Amended) A transceiver unit for receiving signals of more than one wavelength comprising a wavelength division multiplexer for separating the signals of different wavelengths and an optical transceiver as claimed in claim 1 connected to received signals of a first wavelength from the wavelength division multiplexer.

22. (Amended) A transceiver system as claimed in claim 21 connected to a plurality of transceiver units, the central unit comprising a digital transceiver for communicating with the optical transceiver of each of the transceiver units and a further transmitter for transmitting signals to the further receivers of each of the transceiver units.